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Picture: JENNY ARMSTRONG



VIEW FROM OUR CATHEDRAL: Ancient buildings in the city are crumbling despite listed status but the council says that new budget cuts mean it will be impossible to monitor and ensure they are protected

EXCLUSIVE

BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

HISTORICAL buildings are in danger, and the council can do little to save them, says a new report.

Listed buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register are in disrepair, and some are deteriorating rapidly, but a Canterbury council report has said budget cuts mean there is little the organisation can do to help.

The register lists 19 buildings as either at immediate risk or in slow decay, including 14th century Horton Manor Chapel, 15th century Upper Hardres Tithe Barn and a number of ancient buildings in the city centre.

Four of the buildings are listed as at immediate risk. These are 2 The Borough, costing £250,000 to save; 7 St Margaret's Street, costing £500,000; Greyfriars Monastery at £100,000 and monuments in the cathedral precincts at £150,000.

In the report, David Kincaid, leader of the council's conservation and countryside team, said: "Due to limitations of staff time and available budgets, it is not feasible to proactively tackle all of the assets at risk."

"The conservation surveyor who dealt with this was made redundant in 2009. The conservation grant budget for the repair of listed buildings is £20,000 per annum and is not sufficient to tackle the major repair of the assets at risk."

"The costs of repairing the four highest priority heritage assets would be in the order of £1 million. Dealing with heritage at risk is an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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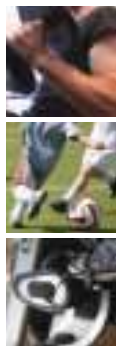
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Pen-wielding potter is overwhelmed by reaction to his book

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

IF YOU'RE a fan of the literary talents of Edmund de Waal, prepare to be disappointed – he will not be releasing another book any time soon.

But then that's not really surprising when you consider the Costa Book Prize winner is, by his own admission, nothing more than a potter who wrote a book.

His book, *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, tells how a collection of 264 Japanese netsuke figurines ended up in his possession, and how they relate to the history of his family.

"My only aim was to get the book published so my family could enjoy it," admitted Mr de Waal, who went to school in Canterbury. "I had no expectations at all that it would receive so much attention. I'm completely overwhelmed by it all."

"It's obviously a very different experience writing something over many years to making a pot, and I'm still trying to work out what winning this prize means to me. I will do more in the future but don't expect one for at least another 10 years. I'm just a potter who wrote a book, and that's it."

The figurines are intricately-carved wood and ivory toggles traditionally used to fasten purses to kimonos – which he inherited from his great uncle.

However, his attempts to find out about their past unearthed some horrific tales of how the objects survived when many other possessions



FASCINATING: Edmund

de Waal's book tells the family history of some netsuke figurines, pictured above

of his Jewish ancestors – persecuted through generations – were stolen.

"Once I started writing the book I felt like I had a responsibility to my family to finish it," said Mr de Waal.

"But even though it covers some important and terrible moments in European history, it's also very much about the touch and feel of these beautiful objects and how intricately made they all were."

The son of a former dean of Canterbury Cathedral, 46-year-old Mr de Waal was educated at the city's King's School and later served as an apprentice potter under one of its ex-teachers, Geoffrey Whiting.

The Hare with Amber Eyes won the Costa Book Prize in the biography category, with the overall winner due to be announced on Tuesday, January 25.

So how does Mr de Waal rate his chances of picking up the accolade?

"I've no chance at all," he said. "But I don't care. All the other authors are wonderful people and deserve to win. I've already got more than I thought possible."

Motorists warned of delays as urgent repairs carried out

DAMAGED chevrons and road deterioration are forcing a large section of the Canterbury-bound A28 to close.

Urgent repairs will be carried out tomorrow, Thursday, on the A28 Canterbury Road to Birchington, between Brooksend Hill and St Nicholas, roundabout between 9am and 3.30pm.

Kent Highway services are patching the pockmarked carriageway before it becomes hazardous to driving and several damaged and missing chevron signs will be replaced, weather permitting.

One lane will remain open heading into Birchington, but Canterbury-bound traffic will be diverted along Seamark Road and onto the A299 Thanet Way via Monkton roundabout.

Police call for bottle attack witnesses

A MAN had to have hospital treatment after being attacked with a bottle by a teenager in a wine bar.

A white 18-year-old man with slim build and brown hair wearing a grey shirt hit a 20-year-old over the head with a glass bottle between 12.45am and 1am on Friday, January 7, in a St Margaret's Street bar.

The victim suffered a lacerated forehead and had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

Anyone who saw what happened is asked to help police with their enquiries by calling 01622 690690 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Coastal search in bid to find missing man

THE coastguard launched a full air and ground search of the Whitstable and Herne Bay coastline to help the police find a missing man.

Police were trying to find an 82-year-old Whitstable man suffering from dementia, who went missing on Friday, January 7.

A rescue helicopter from Leigh-on-Solent, the Herne Bay Coastguard rescue team and the North Kent Coastguard sector manager scoured the shoreline and cliffs from Seasalter to Bishopstone to try and find the man.

He was later found safe in London.

Commander is from our city

A POLICE officer who rose through the ranks in Canterbury has been named as the new area commander.

Chief Superintendent Mark Nottage, who has worked for Kent Police for the last 15 years, will take over at the top of the force's east Kent division.

Ch Supt Nottage will take control of the Canterbury and Thanet areas, where he has close ties. He worked in Canterbury as a patrol sergeant and a detective sergeant whilst rising up the ranks, and he was also a chief inspector and area commander in Thanet five years ago.

He said: "I am really excited about joining the team at east Kent. I have been out on patrol and visited the police stations in the area and it is clear to me that officers and staff have the commitment and dedication

to ensure we provide an excellent service."

Ch Supt Nottage wanted to be a policeman since his childhood, and started his career in Ashford in 1995 at the age of 21. He has also worked in Medway, south Kent and at Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone.

He has close ties with Canterbury, having managed to achieve a degree

in sociology and a masters in management and leadership from the University of Kent whilst working.

He said: "In east Kent we strive to make law-abiding citizens feel safe and secure, and for criminals to feel the opposite."

"As a local for many years, and having worked in various ranks and roles at east Kent, I am aware of the excellent work officers and staff undertake."

"I am passionate about working with my staff, our partners, and especially our communities, to drive crime down and ensure east Kent remains a safe place to live, work and visit."

The new area commander has three young children, is a member of Canterbury's City Church and is a West Ham supporter.



NEW COMMANDER: Chief Superintendent Mark Nottage

A year of excitement

Banish the post-Christmas blues with our look forward

BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

THE new year promises to be incredibly exciting, with the culmination of projects which will change Canterbury for the better.

To dispel the winter blues, here is a peek at the newsroom diary and all the most hotly-anticipated events.

Local elections

The district gets the chance to keep or get rid of its city councillors on Wednesday, May 5. The predominantly Conservative district council, which covers Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and the surrounding villages, only has two Labour councillors.

In the past Lib Dem-Labour coalitions have taken control of the council, but with the Lib Dems aligning with the Tories in parliament the outcome could be unusual. This is also the day of the voting system referendum.

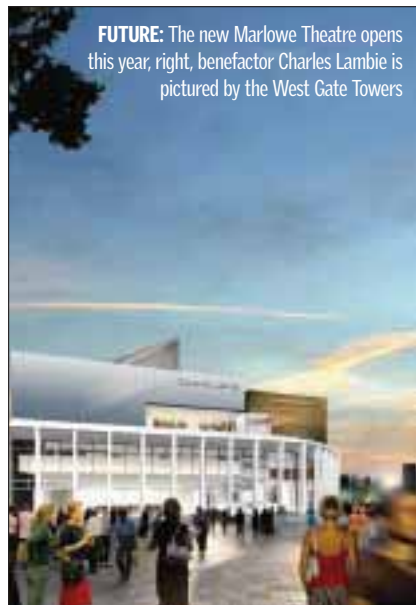
West Gate Towers

Previously doomed to closure by the council, the West Gate Towers museum has been given a lifeline by benefactor Charles Lambie and is due to re-open in May.

The new museum will boast weekly trumpet fanfares from the roof, a café and even more to look at. As well as the murder holes and battlements, there will now be the chance to see the untouched prison next door.

A2 slip road

Heralded by many as a relief for Canterbury's congestion problems, the new slip road between the A28 at Wincheap and the A2 London-bound is due to be completed in the early summer.



FUTURE: The new Marlowe Theatre opens this year, right, benefactor Charles Lambie is pictured by the West Gate Towers

The £2million project was at risk from funding cuts but Kent County Council considered it important enough to save from the axe. Drivers in the area will no longer have to travel through Canterbury in order to get to London.

Marlowe Theatre

One of the most hotly-anticipated events of 2011, the new Marlowe Theatre will open in September – in time for Canterbury Festival.

The main auditorium boasts an extra 200 seats, there is an second theatre for smaller



productions and a light and airy foyer and bar, courtesy of architect Keith Williams.

Herne Bay sports

The town's regeneration is getting well under way this year with new sports facilities at the Herons Swimming Pool and at Herne Bay High.

The school will get a massive arena to take over from the Pier Sports Centre, which is due to be removed from the Regency structure. The new facilities will be opening in the autumn.

Mayor wants us to nominate our unsung heroes

NOW is the time to put forward an unsung hero for recognition in the Lord Mayor's Award.

Nominations for the 13th year of the annual civic awards have opened.

The nominee can be any age and from any walk of life, but must live in Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay or villages in the district.

Entries will be judged by Lord Mayor Cllr Pat Todd and a councillor from each of Canterbury council's political parties.

Nomination forms should be submitted by Monday, February 14.

For an entry form call the Lord Mayor's office on 01227 862 080 or visit the council website at www.canterbury.gov.uk.

Travellers need new bus passes as readers fail

NEW smart card-readers installed on buses to help tackle fraud have not been working, meaning customers have had to seek replacements.

Some of the card-readers have not been reading the cards, so travellers have not been able to use the buses.

The council has said that if the traveller has damaged their card they will have to pay £10 for a new one, but if it appears to be in good condition the replacement card will be free.

Any passengers wanting to swap their cards should call the bus pass administration team on 01227 862343.

Eyesores 'hit city's image'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
important function of the council in preserving heritage assets."

Other heritage assets at risk include ruins of St Augustine's Abbey inside the cathedral precincts; 28-29 High Street; 27 St Dunstan's Street; the Tannery buildings on Stour Street; a fisherman's store in Whitstable; an ancient burial mound in Adisham and 96 High Street in Bridge.

Paul Bennett, director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, said: "The council has been gradually withdrawing from conservation for at least 10 years.

"There was a time when Canterbury was held up as the example for how having a strong conservation section improved the image of a city.

"Canterbury has always traded on its heritage. People will always come to Canterbury because of where it is and what it is.

"These buildings are an eyesore. They detract from the greater part of the city. A street becomes contaminated by a building that is not being properly maintained. It damages the image of the city.

"The city council should use local expertise and volunteers more effectively. It is a win-win situation – volunteers enjoy volunteering and we reap the benefits of their enjoyment."

Safety fears raised as birth unit closed

MP Julian Brazier has asked for a meeting with the chief executive of East Kent Hospitals over the "extremely worrying" closure of Canterbury's birthing unit.

The Canterbury and Whitstable MP has said he is deeply concerned over the threat to the birthing centre at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital in the city and has asked to speak to chief executive Stuart Bain about the plans.

The East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, which deals with hospitals, and primary care trust NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, which deals with other health services, are planning to radically overhaul maternity services across east Kent as part of a five-month review.

The plan will see birthing centres close at three hospitals, including Canterbury hospital, which is suspending the service from this month.

Mr Brazier said: "At a time when birth rates are rising, it is extremely worrying that services are being cut, since this could mean some women will not get the care they need.

"The Canterbury birthing unit has an outstanding record for safe and intervention-free births and I have



QUESTIONS: Julian Brazier MP

asked the chief executive of the East Kent Hospitals Trust to meet me as soon as possible to discuss the implications of the review."

The news that birthing centres will be closing comes as Canterbury is named Britain's third most fertile city by parenting website Gurgle.com. The website based its study on the number of pregnancies by population and the average time taken to conceive.

Pregnancies are up 2.7 per cent compared with last year.



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Chief executive's humble reaction to OBE honour

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

THE Queen has awarded new year honours to the chief executive of Canterbury council and the chairman of Littlebourne council.

Colin Carmichael, who has worked for councils for 36 years, was awarded a highly prestigious OBE for services to local government. He has been chief executive of Canterbury council for 14 years. He previously worked in Camden and Hackney councils.

Mr Carmichael said: "My immediate reaction was that somebody was setting me up and it was a bit of a scam.

"I was very pleased but part of me was always thinking why I did get this when I am sure lots of other people who deserve it haven't. But it is lovely and my family are very pleased."

Mr Carmichael started working in local government in an attempt to do his bit. He said: "Part of the fun of being in Canterbury is that it is very much a community.

"I was wondering the other day why it was I wanted to do work in local government. My parents suggested things like being a barrister, which at the time I thought was outrageous as it didn't contribute to society.

"I am still here, so it was the right decision for me and I love doing it."

And the chief executive said the area has meant he has enjoyed his job. He said: "I love working here – it is a great place to be.

"There is virtually no other council in the country that has got a world heritage site, two big coastal towns, the education, tourists and a city with an identifiable name like Canterbury. It is important to be able to identify with the place and feel proud of it.

"It is much more varied than being in a similar type of council where you just make sure the bins get collected.

"That is very important, but here we do so much more than that. We build theatres and do things in Whitstable and Herne Bay.

"Canterbury always has been an incredibly ambitious council, and it is huge fun working with councillors who want to make things better. It suits me down to the ground."

Vivienne Spratt, chairman of Littlebourne parish council, was awarded an MBE in the



HUMBLE ACCEPTANCE: City council chief executive Colin Carmichael has been awarded the OBE

new year honours for services to the community in the village.

Mrs Spratt has lived in Littlebourne, near Canterbury, for 15 years after her daughter-in-law died of breast cancer when she was 28. She moved so she could help her son bring up his children in a friendly village environment.

She has been involved in lots of community groups including youth groups. This has included being involved in replacing play equipment, building a youth shelter and running a youth club with 45 member.

Mrs Spratt also trained to be a youth worker and worked to get a children's centre built in the village.

She said: "I have been very active and somebody must have recognised it and put me up for the MBE. I am a busy lady. We have got a really good community here."

Driving mobile users are told: You will be caught

MOTORISTS who flout mobile phone and seat belt laws are being targeted by mobile speed camera vans.

The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership have found that drivers are increasingly using their mobile phones to text, tweet and update their facebook status whilst driving.

In Canterbury and across Kent the organisation is putting up boards to warn motorists they can be caught for seat belt and phone driving offences by ordinary speed camera vans.

According to the partnership, 29 people were killed or seriously injured at crash hotspots in the Canterbury district before speed cameras were installed, but in 2006-8 this fell to two people killed or seriously injured in the same places.

Small companies put at risk by increase in VAT

BUSINESS leaders have warned of the detrimental impact the VAT rise will have on small firms, with many expected to increase prices to cope with financial pressures.

It comes just weeks after heavy snow caused a slump in Christmas sales figures, with a predicted loss of around £600 million to the South East economy.

The rise in fuel prices is also expected to have an immediate impact on commerce and industry as companies battle to absorb increased costs.

Small firms are forecast to fare worst after the 2.5 per cent VAT rise to 20 per cent was introduced by the Coalition.

The Federation of Small Businesses said that, unlike the big companies, smaller firms may have to pass the cost onto customers, reduce stock levels or cut jobs.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tuition fees sit-in is over

STUDENTS who staged a four-week sit-in over Christmas at the University of Kent to protest against higher tuition fees have left.

The group occupied the university's Senate building at the Canterbury campus on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. The six protesters left peacefully at 2pm on Wednesday, January 5, but vowed to continue campaigning.

The students said they spent most of the Christmas period without heating, and had to live off food parcels passed to them via the security officers guarding the building.

The six were demanding the University of Kent and its vice-chancellor, Julia Goodfellow, publicly condemn the government's plans to cut higher education funding and raise tuition fees. They also insisted the vice-chancellor retract her support for a letter she signed which was published in the Daily Telegraph. This opposed the cuts but supported Government plans for university funding.

Bounce for spine charity

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS are hoping to break a record and raise funds for spinal research by bouncing on exercise balls.

Health professionals from Canterbury's Chaucer Hospital are planning to go to the Kingsmead Leisure Centre and join the world's largest exercise ball class, which will involve up to 700 people simultaneously exercising on gym balls at sports centres across the South East.

The attempt will help Spinal Research – a charity which funds research into medical treatments for paralysis.

See www.bmihealthcare.co.uk/bigbounce to find out how to take part.

Careless driving charge

A MAN has been charged with causing death by careless driving in the accident which killed 16-year-old Tom Brenchley.

Gareth Jones, 48, of Hill View Road, Whitstable, was charged on Thursday, January 6, following the fatal smash on the A299 Thanet Way near Dargate on July 27, last year. Moped rider Tom Brenchley from Hernhill died in a London hospital the day after the crash.

Mr Jones will appear before Canterbury magistrates on Tuesday, January 25.

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Dress to impress and take control of your future

A LIFE coach and image consultant are running a course to help women take control of their lives through their clothes.

Women in the Canterbury area can learn how to develop an image to suit their style and personality during a one-day workshop in February.

The event will be run by image consultant Olwen Shaw and career and life coach Sue Butler.

Mrs Butler said: "Many people, particularly those at a crossroads such as when children leave home, when a relationship ends or when changing job, feel that while they are the driver of their life, someone else is doing the steering."

"We'll spend part of the day looking at how to take charge, clarify what really matters and make some exciting changes."

The workshop at Iffin House, near Canterbury, runs from 9.30am until 4.30pm, on Saturday, February 12.

Ms Shaw said: "Many of us sometimes feel we have a wardrobe full of clothes but nothing to wear. Most women wear 20 per cent of their clothes 80 per cent of the time."

"At the workshop, we'll start to give people the confidence to know how to look their best, and the enthusiasm to create a wardrobe that is right for them."

The day costs £99, including lunch and tea, but there is an early booking discount. For details call Olwen Shaw on 01227 709 555 or email olwen@olwen-shawstyle.co.uk

Film students reel out best work for festival

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

STUDENTS from Canterbury Christchurch University and Canterbury College have created short movies for a film festival.

The budding film directors are competing for the best fictional, the best documentary, the best student film and best overall film.

A comedy musical, *Sweet Dreams Are Made of Cheese*, by Barry Leech, a postgraduate student at Christchurch University, has been entered into the best short film category.

It tells the story of a man who wants to write the greatest pantomime ever, but his search for inspiration results in his arrest.

Partly filmed at the Canterbury St Augustine's Building of Christchurch University, it stars Lawrence Kemp as Jez, Hannah Chalmers as Kathy, and mother-and-son acting team Karol and Ben Steele as The police psychologist and Sir Lancelot.

Canterbury College students Lily Jenkins and Ben Steele created the Christmas horror, *I Saw a Zombie Eat Santa Claus*.

It tells of a Zombie invasion on Christmas Eve, and stars Mark Smith as Santa, Karol Steele as Mummy Zombie, Ben Steele as Zach and Lily Jenkins as Zombie Victim One.

Ben and Lily also teamed up with Chloe



FESTIVAL ENTRIES: The cast and crew of *Bag Job*, and right, Karol Steele in *Sweet Dreams are Made of Cheese*



Atkins to make the indie rock video *Bag Job*. Set to the music of Deal band City Lightz, it tells of a man trapped in a pub cellar, while his girlfriend tries to find him.

It stars Laurence Crow, from Dover, and Beth Willicombe, from Sandwich, as the couple, Peter Jenner from Folkestone as the barman, and Andrew Reynolds, from Faversham, as one of the pub-goers.

Films should be submitted in DVD format by February 1. For details, go to <http://www.dover-film.com/2011ShortFilmsentries.html>.

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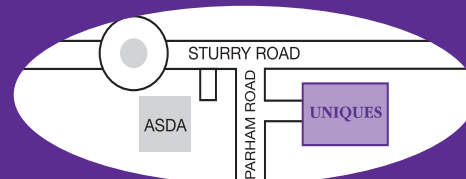
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YOUR LETTERS



A question that fills the pregnant pause

I was interested to read your story on the review of maternity services across east Kent and then fascinated to see your story that Canterbury is the third most likely place in Britain for someone to fall pregnant. So one question: why is the birthing unit closing?

Michael, comment on web story

Pantomime's better without the big tent

There seems to have been a pretty mixed reception to this year's pantomime, Robin Hood, at the Marlowe Arena temporary theatre.

All I can say is I enjoyed it a great deal and it was much better than last year's, but must admit I do look forward to being back in the new Marlowe Theatre.

Everyone involved, John Thomson including Canterbury council, has done a marvellous job continuing to bring the panto to our city while our theatre is rebuilt. But I think we've learned that tents are for circuses or camping, not theatre.

Jocelyn Roberts, Wincheap



PANTO STAR: John Thomson

Learn the lessons of our Roman reprieve

I was pleased to read your front page headline 'Revival in Roman museum fortunes'.

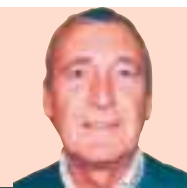
It is good news that Canterbury council has listened and the Roman museum has been reprieved, thanks to better marketing and public support. This was a good lesson for councillors to learn. Let them now turn their attention to park and ride.

It's obvious that they saw there was a commercial benefit in Christmas shopping. They blanked off the notice stating: 'All P&R sites closed on Sundays' and replaced them with: 'Nov 28-Dec 19, Sunday service at all three sites'.

Surely with better marketing they could keep at least one of them open on a Sunday throughout the year. This could provide commercial and cultural benefits. Here are a few suggestions I noticed in our city's counterpart, York. Its park and ride buses run seven days a

yourblogger

Ian MacMillan hankers after Britain's halcyon days – before Blair, Thatcher and greedy bankers



BACK in the late Fifties my namesake Harold coined the phrase "You've never had it so good" and, in retrospect, how right he was.

Yes, he was a public-school educated Tory patrician, but nevertheless would have struggled to gain acceptance by Blair, Mandelson and so-called New Labour with their penchant for privatisation, PFI (that went well didn't it?) and Mandy being "intensely relaxed" about people becoming filthy rich.

"Selling off the family silver" was how he described Maggie Thatcher's privatisations of the 1980s.

Only those of my generation will remember the halcyon days when British Rail ran the railways, and the so-called utilities were run by British Gas, Seaboard and the GPO.

And there was a mining industry with vibrant communities where the coal was dug out of the ground.

I have a notice on my door addressed to energy salesmen. Two words – the second is 'off'. Of course we grumbled about British Rail, but, whatever its faults, it wasn't simply a vehicle to rip off the consumer to make profits for shareholders and directors.

I am no xenophobe, but most utilities now have foreign owners, as indeed do football clubs and most multinationals. When I went to school, I was told it was good that Britain had lots of foreign investments and the dividends were flooding into this country.

Now, if a Korean or Indian company buys a firm

here, that's good as well. Call me an idiot, but I can't work that one out.

When I left school in 1958, having no vocation, I became a bank clerk and joined the Young Socialists. There was no unemployment then.

Those who went to the village secondary school either became a nurse at the local mental hospital or worked at the paper mill, also in the village.

I was vice-president of Folkestone Young Socialists. My friend, also a clerk, was the president. In truth there were only about five of us, but we thought "from each according to his ability and to each according to his need" wasn't a bad mantra to live by, especially for those unable to distinguish between religion and superstition.

And there was always hope, until the cuckoo Blair landed in the nest along with his New Labour cronies.

Now white-collar crooks rule town halls, hospitals and so on, eager to hang on to obscene salaries in spite of the dire economic times we live in.

When I worked in banking, three per cent over base was a punitive rate. Now banks charge 19 per cent over base and employ fat-cat lawyers to successfully defend their theft from clients' accounts by way of charges – in spite of OFT recommendations.

Nearing the end of my life, if I had no children and grandchildren, I'd bid it – life, I mean – a cheery wave as I say goodbye.

Will new leader Ed Miliband eventually breathe life into a moribund Labour Party? I hope so.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

week. The vehicles have posters publicising their city's attractions, ours don't.

Also they carry copies of their handy pocket-sized city guidebook, but ours don't. Yes, we too have a fine pocket-sized guidebook but it's not readily available.

We have a great city, let's market it better and encourage tourism.

Alan Barber, Bridge



As parents spend a fortune on presents, Gary Wright asks if value being set for children

A Wright Scrooge or on the money?

Gary Wright's support for Jamie Oliver and suggestion we should not spend so much on our children at Christmas may seek to make a valid point about the value of money. But some might think he's become the Ebenezer Scrooge of the 21st Century.

Terry, comment on website

Popular goat gifts make a difference

Oxfam Unwrapped's goats are an extremely effective way to help improve the lives of poor people, using locally sourced, responsibly distributed livestock to make a massive difference in more than 60 countries.

We launched our range in 2004 and the goat gift is a popular choice. For the gift buyer, there's obvious appeal, but for the family that receives the goat, it becomes absolutely central to their lives.

They can not only be used for milk or food but as an asset to trade, giving families access to credit for food during low seasons or an income to send their children to school and then growing their wealth as it produces kids. At Oxfam we know only too well the impact that the environment has on poor people and are very careful

'Pukka' blog on the value of Christmas

Your blog last week hit the nail on the head and, like many parents I believe our children have absolutely no idea of the value of money.

Quite rightly the article praised millionaire Jamie Oliver for his determination to teach his children the value of money by making them work.

There is one part of me that is glad youngsters do not grow up deprived. But, equally, in our consumer society it is amazing the amount of money that is poured into non-essentials.

Most children these days have no idea of real cost or what it takes to get the money.

It is no wonder Britain and most of the western world is in such a terrible state economically and there is no evidence that people reaching adulthood have fully grasped the idea that it may be better to save up rather than have it now, pay later.

Christmas is already fading in our memories but the credit card bills will begin falling on doormats pretty soon. There's a reminder for almost everyone. It really seems we have learned nothing over the past few years and the prospects of learning any lesson remain poor.

So yes I agree with Jamie Oliver's example but I fear few youngsters will get similar benefits.

Charles Rowcroft, by email

Festive season a gift for children to enjoy

What a miserable attitude displayed by your blogger last week.

Christmas has nothing to do with kids learning the value of money and everything to do with having a great time as a family.

Yes I can see the point in making youngsters carry out chores for their pocket money but to suggest they should have less at Christmas is ridiculous.

Mrs T Leigh, by email

not to upset existing ecological balances. We don't bring in goats from other areas, we redistribute live-stock within villages, so the environmental impact is minimal.

We also assess the potential impact on natural resources by talking to local people who have detailed knowledge of grazing patterns and feeding practices.

Animal welfare is considered every step of the way and our programme guidelines are endorsed by the RSPCA.

We never promote animal husbandry above agriculture. But in some areas it is simply too dry to grow enough crops, so raising live-stock is the only option.

Thanks to people's generosity we have raised an incredible £60 million to help thousands of people living in poverty around the world.

Rick Lay, Oxfam Unwrapped campaign manager

Patience over water work is appreciated

I am writing to tell your readers that South East Water's £1 million project to replace 22 cast iron water mains pipes in Herne Bay is more than halfway through.

Work in 12 roads is completed and more than three kilometres of new pipes have been installed.

It is essential we carry out this work as the water pipes in town were first laid more than 80 years ago and are reaching the end of their working life.

The company has been working since last summer at locations across town, replacing old pipes with new, stronger plastic pipes. Despite difficulties caused by snow in November and December, the programme is still on course to complete by the beginning of April.

We have been delighted with the support and patience shown by the people of Herne Bay in those streets we have been working in.

We now move into the town centre in order to complete the work over the next few months.

In total, 5km of cast iron pipeline is being replaced with plastic pipes, which will bring to an end to mains bursts that result in an interruption to drinking water supplies and traffic disruption.

In order to carry out this work in a safe manner, it will be necessary for South East Water's contractors to use traffic management along the roads affected, but pedestrian and resident access will always be maintained, and certainly up to the point of excavations.

As the methods will vary street to street, residents should keep an eye for signs advising of any disruption to the road.

The pipe will be laid using a rolling workfront method, so at any one time only a small section of road will be affected, and then only for short periods.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience our work in Herne Bay causes, but we hope this short-term pain will be for a long-term gain as we secure drinking water supplies.

Jo Sward, South East Water

yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

CAROLINE HALLETT



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I am regional coordinator for the Food For Life Partnership. I live in Folkestone but work throughout the South East so see a lot of the M20 and the M25. I am married with two grown-up children.

Q What is Food For Life and how did you get involved?

A The Food For Life Partnership is a network of schools and communities committed to transforming food culture. We are revolutionising school meals, reconnecting young people with farms and inspiring families and communities to cook and grow food. The partnership brings together four charities: the Soil Association, Focus On Food, Health Education Trust and Garden Organic. It empowers schools, teachers, caterers, food-producers, pupils and health professionals to create a better food culture for young people across England. This means a school-meals service serving healthy and sustainable food, practical food education and engaged pupils.

Q What are the advantages of growing your own?

A We encourage people to reconnect with food by growing organic or buying from local farmers and suppliers. Organic food is grown without the use of man-made chemicals. The same is true for organic meat. One of

the first things people notice when switching to organic is the taste, which is much better.

The most obvious advantage is safety. Pesticides and other chemicals are sprayed on inorganic food. Many fungicides and insecticides are potentially carcinogenic. With organic, the soil is not contaminated.

Q You are reaching out to schools to spread the message

A We have more than 400 schools across the South East enrolled in the programme. These are setting up gardens, getting young people cooking and growing, and visiting farms and businesses to understand more about food and where it comes from. We offer an award scheme and have gold-, silver- and bronze-award-winning schools.

Q Will the trend towards carbon reduction aid your cause?

A Absolutely. When we think about carbon footprints we tend to concentrate on how much energy we use directly, in our homes or travelling. This makes up our primary footprint, but environmental impact doesn't stop there. Food miles and packaging produce a secondary footprint.

Over-packaged items and food brought over large distances all add to our carbon contribution. Saving energy – and lowering emissions – isn't only about changing light-bulbs and switching off appliances.

Q Are supermarkets a help or hindrance to local produce?

A Large supermarkets don't supply schools with raw ingredients. We have had a positive response to our campaign from school-meals caterers who are applying for our Catering Mark and using 50 per cent locally-sourced ingredients. We encourage parents to use local suppliers and organic-veg-box schemes, but all the large supermarkets carry organic ranges now.

Q What is the future for food distribution and choice?

A The way food is distributed nationally has production, consumption and trading practices that destroy the environment, harm animals and are deeply unjust. I would like a return to local-food-hubs, with enough produced locally for all. It is madness to have only three or four large 'food factories' for staples.

Q Where can people find out more?

A Check out www.foodforlife.org.uk, or email me via chalet@soilassociation.org.uk.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A I have a variety of hobbies, including arts and crafts, cooking and walking. I love entertaining and relaxing with friends.

Q & A

The Kent co-ordinator of the Food For Life Partnership speaks to **James Alexandre** about transforming school meals, reducing carbon miles and what organic produce means for the future of our food supplies



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Departs September 15, 2011

This superb holiday, taking in the French and Italian Rivières, starts with an escorted afternoon departure on Eurostar from London. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, visits to Monaco, Portofino and San Remo.

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Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 50s only



Friday, February 25, 2011

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're rekindling the 70s & 80s when Abba's songs were on everyone's lips.

PRICE INCLUDES: FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday. Includes house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Dinners & Breakfasts • Mamma Mia movie screening • Abba Tribute Band • Variety entertainment • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna • Return Car Ferry

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Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales - Over 50s only

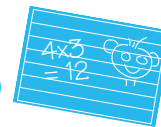


Friday, March 25, 2011

Join us for a unique Mamma Mia Party - for over 50s only - in beautiful North Wales. Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel will resound to the sights and sounds of Abba. Enjoy free drinks and nightly entertainment including a screening of Mamma Mia the Movie and an Abba tribute act.

INCLUDES: Free Bar 6pm to 11pm daily - house beers, spirits & mixers, wine by the glass • Entertainment including a Mamma Mia the Movie screening and Abba tribute act • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • En-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

SELF-DRIVE
3 NIGHTS
DRINKS INCLUSIVE
£299pp
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BREAK TIME

Real impact set to help disabled in PE

NINE times football champions of Europe Real Madrid are working with the University of Kent on groundbreaking sport research.

The university is the first in the UK to sign up with the famous Spanish club's Real Madrid International School, which it created in 2006 to boost sports research in higher education.

The University of Kent study will look into how trainee teachers view getting pupils with disabilities involved in PE.

Kent's Dr Sakis Pappous, a sport management studies expert, will be working with researchers from Spain's University of Granada on the project.

He said: 'Real Madrid has established a foundation which funds research projects with universities across Europe, but Kent is the first UK university to receive funding under this scheme.'

'Real Madrid aims to foster the creation of knowledge and advanced research and stimulate the integration of the academic and sports worlds.'

'This project will have an intercultural element looking at how trainee teachers in both the UK and Spain view the inclusion of pupils with disabilities in physical education.'

The research will include sports science and psychology researchers from both universities, including psychologist Dr Sofia Stathi from the University of Kent. The University of Kent has been given £6,000 by Real Madrid for undertaking the research.

The University of Kent also has campuses in Paris and Brussels and has partnerships with more than 100 universities in mainland Europe.

Duo to impart Olympic values to schoolmates

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

TICKETS to the Olympics are some of the prizes the Langton Girls' school will enjoy thanks to winning a partnership with the games.

Pupils at Canterbury's Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School will also get to enter exclusive competitions thanks to two enterprising students who bid for their school to join the Olympics' Get Set Network.

Sixth-formers Sarah Hopkins and Jemma Edmunds are both young ambassadors for the games, representing the Canterbury School Sports Partnership.

Inspiration

They were inspired to make the bid after going to a conference at Twickenham Rugby Stadium in September, where they learned about the benefits of the scheme, which is inspired by the Olympic values of respect, excellence and friendship.

After going to the event, the girls said: 'We are full of inspiration and ready to work hard to promote the Olympic values. In the car on the way back from the conference we made a 'to do' list for ourselves and soon ticked off several items.'

'We spoke to our headteacher, who is very keen to be involved, and we started to plan our assemblies. We are determined to ensure every pupil in our school has heard of the values.'

Over the last two years girls at the school have been working hard to make sure the Olympics



OLYMPICS SYMBOL: Design and technology teacher Diane Statham helps girls make an Olympic flag

have an impact in the area. So far they have given a presentation to more than 300 parents, students and dignitaries about the Olympic values at a nearby sports college.

They also spoke to primary school pupils in Barham School to encourage them to join in with the spirit of the games, as well as other students at netball and football festivals.

They used the opportunity to give out certificates based on fair play and respect for their opponents.

And the school invited bronze Paralympic rowing medallist Alistair McKean to a family sports festival, where the Canterbury man spoke about equality in sport and how it is important to let everyone take part.

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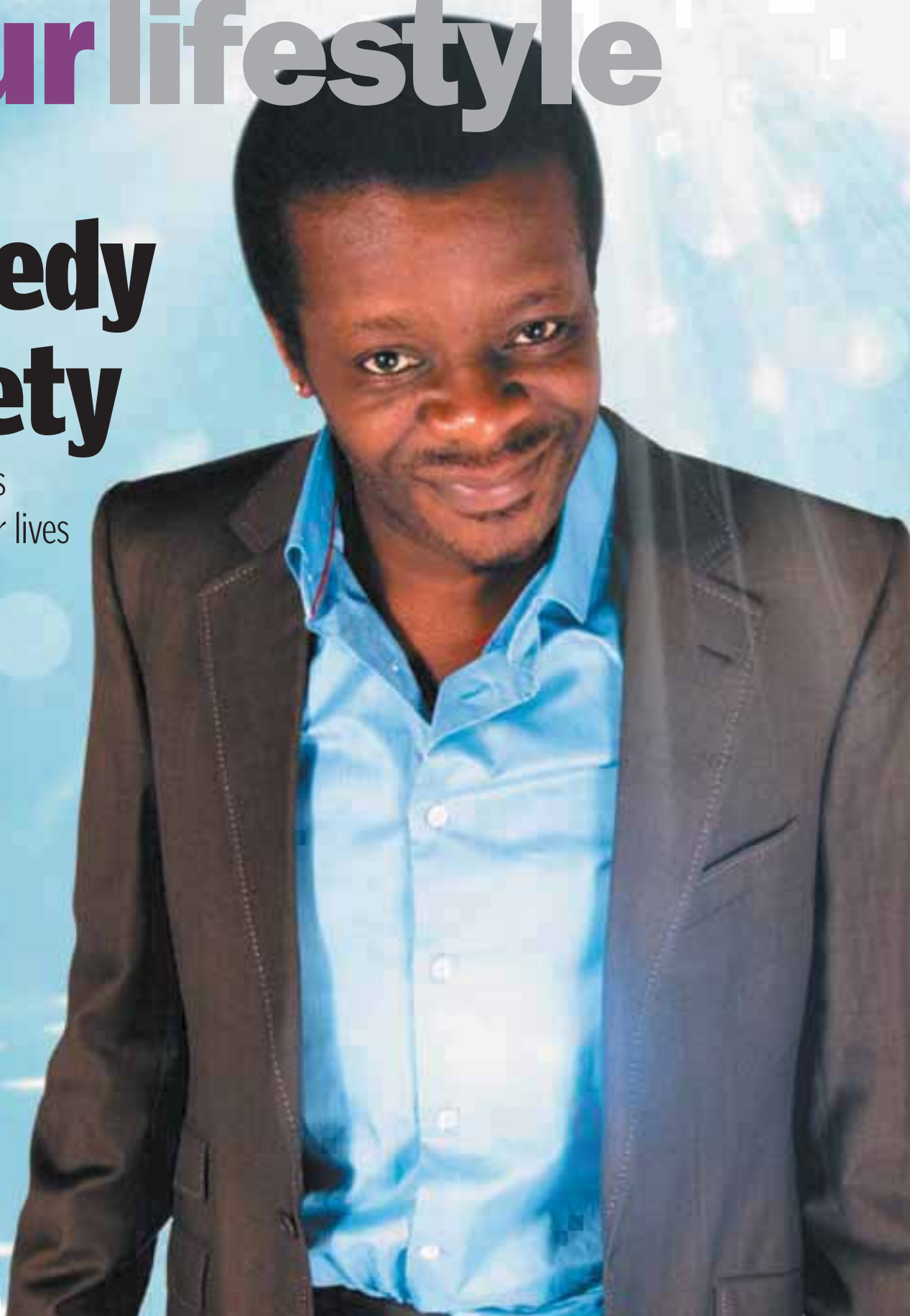
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your lifestyle

Comedy variety

Stephen K Amos
brightens up our lives
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MUSIC/GETAWAYS 20

WEATHER 18

EVENTS 16

INTERVIEW 14

LEISURE 13-20



DAY & NIGHT

Beautiful ballet show

CINDERELLA by Ballet Theatre UK is at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on Saturday, January 29, at 7.30pm.

The rags-to-riches story features Prokofiev's uplifting score together with sumptuous costumes. The sets conjure up a magical fantasy world in this enchanting production.

Tickets are £18, concessions £15. To book call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

The thrill of the circus

FROM January 11 to 15, the big top of Moscow State Circus will arrive at the Churchill Theatre.

Performers are bringing the sensational new show *Legenda* to Bromley for the first time. It is sure to thrill, astound and shock audiences of all ages with its blend of classical and contemporary circus.

Presenting a huge cast of Russia's greatest circus artistes, the Moscow State Circus is bursting with incredible human feats and death-defying acts, with state of the art special effects and performers who push the boundaries of physical ingenuity.

But tickets by calling 08448 717620, or at www.ambassadorstickets.com/bromley.

Laughter with Marlon

STAND-up comedian Marlon Davis will be making audiences laugh at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Wednesday, February 2.

The young comedian, improviser, actor and presenter bursts on to the stage like a breath of fresh air, with an impish grin, boyish enthusiasm and an effortlessly open, confident style.

He appeared in *Brown-Eyed Boy* on MTV and won the FHM Search For A Stand-Up Hero competition in 2009.

Tickets are £10. Over 18s only.

See www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call 01622 758611 to book.

Tune in to war time

ISLA St Clair comes to the Horsebridge centre in Whitstable on Friday, at 7.30pm.

The Eyes Front show is an exciting combination of live performance and film about the effect of music in wartime with the singer and broadcaster.

Isla St Clair, will present and perform a selection of popular songs and tell the stories behind them.

Visit www.islastclair.com for details.

Tickets are £10 or £9 concessions from the box office on 01227 281174.

Tony shares his politics

VETERAN parliamentarian Tony Benn comes to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury for one of his popular speaking dates.

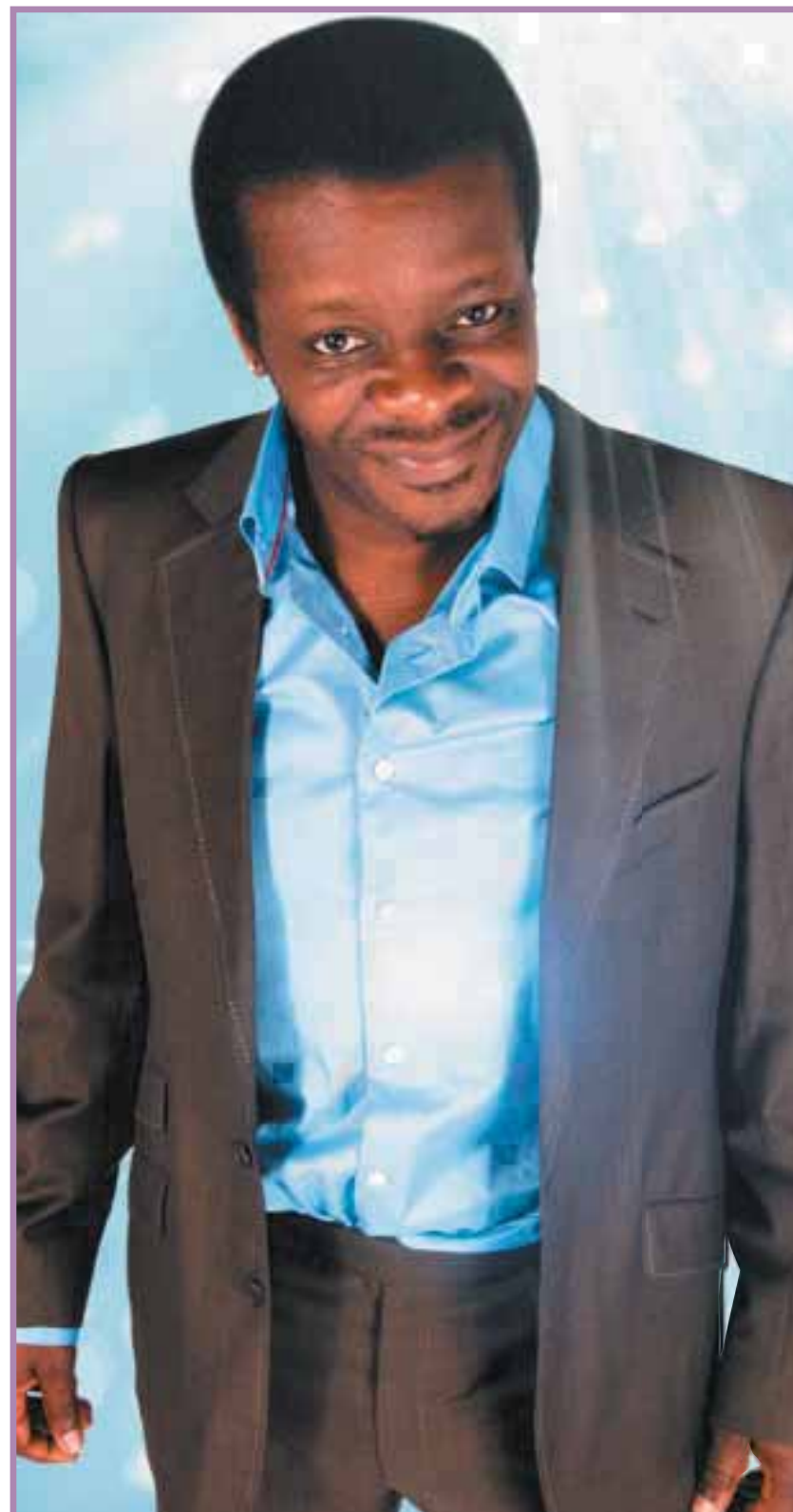
An Evening with Tony Benn, on Friday, January 21, will see the lauded left winger recall many anecdotes from his distinguished career.

He'll talk about his life in politics and what he thinks about the changes in the Labour party.

Expect an evening of frank responses and entertaining political anecdotes in the long awaited sequel to his original legendary theatre tour.

For tickets (£18) call 01227 769075 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.

Laughter is the best medicine



STEPHEN K AMOS

Tuesday, January 18
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



STEPHEN K Amos is experiencing the biggest boom of his career.

The comedian has recently been starring in his own self-titled TV show on BBC Two and is seen as one of the brightest new stars in the comedy firmament.

And now he's bringing his *The Best Medicine* show to Canterbury.

"I'm feeling good about life right now," he said. "I was really flattered that the BBC saw fit to give me the chance to do my own show, in this day and age if you are a comic on TV you don't always get that platform to show all the different things you can do, so I saw it as a real great opportunity to show a bit more of myself."

The Stephen K Amos show went out on BBC Two on Friday nights at 10pm, but the series ended in the run up to Christmas.

Stephen said of what he wanted to achieve with it: "I kind of hark back to the old style of Dave Allen with the feel of the show. It's quite gentle and I embrace the variety nature of shows like that as I didn't think that kind of thing was happening as much on TV anymore, so to help to try and revive it is something that it's great to be involved with."

"I didn't want to do another bog-standard stand-up show. With that in mind we threw in some sketches, some bits with the audience and then some musical acts that you might not see on things like Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. I just wanted to throw some more in there to mix it up a bit."

Stephen turned to comedy 15 years ago but never thought he'd make a career out of it.

He said: "I was studying law at the time but decided I'd try my hand at stand-up and simply haven't stopped. It was never part of my plan to live this life. I wanted to be a lawyer and see where that took me."

"I'd never tried stand-up before, or any comedy and never been to a comedy club, so to me it was like a totally new medium."

"I just took the attitude from the start that it was all about having fun on stage and not being too fearful of it."

"That was probably helped initially by the fact that at the early shows a lot of my friends turned up. They found me funny anyway, but they obviously couldn't be there every time I had a show and so they started to stop coming. But the laughs continued and I decided to keep it going."

"People always say to me it must be the most petrifying thing to do, but the worst that can happen is that people don't laugh. It might be uncomfortable for a while but you're not going to die. There's usually a lot of goodwill in audiences too. Most people go to comedy nights to laugh, they want to laugh."

Stephen promises that his touring show is very different to his TV work.

"This is live, unedited and in the moment. I try and keep it as fresh as possible. If something that is new material to me feels right I will do it and try it out. I try not to stick too rigidly to any script."

Stephen begins his tour in mid-January and says that he believes comedy is having a real renaissance at the moment.

"It's absolutely going through a boom time. That's got to be a good thing. I think we've all had enough of celebrity chefs. There was a time when you couldn't turn on the TV without seeing one, but that seems to have died off a little."

"People want to have a laugh when they get home. There are other art forms and stand-up comedy really is one worth putting on TV."

• For tickets (£13 each) to see Stephen in Canterbury, Book at www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian or call 01227 769075.



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sunday 16th january 4.10pm premier league

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THE FUNNY SIDE COMEDY CLUB

Wednesday, January 26, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



FUNNY Side Comedy Club nights take place once a month on Wednesdays in the theatre building on the University of Kent campus.

Three top acts, usually Comedy Store regulars, are introduced by our compere in the comfortable surroundings of the Cafe Bar.

This month Kevin Precious introduces vein popping Mark Walker; endearing Diane Morgan; and loveable Eddy Brimson, pictured.

Mark Walker has fronted a rock band and worked as a pebble dasher. He now finds himself living in London and working the comedy circuit.

He is vocally and physically

dynamic with his performance, in which he combines life with surrealism to become a living embodiment of his daydreams.

Diane Morgan, a former actress, is one half of acclaimed comedy sketch duo Two Episodes of Mash and has won numerous awards and praise.

Eddy Brimson is a familiar face on the UK comedy circuit and is a regular at such prestigious venues as Jongleurs, Banana Cabaret, Belfast Empire and London's notorious Up the Creek.

Advance tickets are £8, or you can pay £10 on the door on the night. Encore Gulbenkian members and student advance tickets are £6, or £8 on the door.



PUNT AND DENNIS

Saturday, January 15 and Thursday, January 20, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



GOOD friends and important fixtures on the British comedy scene for decades, it's been three years since Punt and Dennis last toured the UK.

There is, therefore, no excuse for not writing a brand-new show and getting out on the road... so they have.

Hugh Dennis has catapulted in popularity following his role in the award-winning Outnumbered, as the obnoxious GP Piers Crispin in My Hero, and with his quick-witted quips as a regular panellist on Mock the Week, and Steve Punt has worked just as hard and often.

They've come a long way since being bit part players on Jasper Carrot's show Canned Carrot.

Both have enjoyed continued success in the award-winning and acclaimed BBC Radio 4 programme The Now Show.

Expect ridiculous mimes, great impressions, political satire and maybe the odd nursery rhyme.

Tickets are £18.50 or £16.50 for members of Encore! Gulbenkian. Over 16s only.

Call 01227 769075 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian to book tickets or for further information.

ALADDIN

Until January 23, various times,
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



IT MAY seem like a little too late to be thinking about going to see a pantomime, but performers in Folkestone are still very much at it.

The annual Leas Cliff Hall panto, Aladddin, features a brand new set, talented cast and plenty of catchy show tunes that you'll be singing until February half term.

Folkestone's favourite panto stars will take to the stage, Paul Ketley and Neil Hunnisett will have you in stitches with their hilarious antics as Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee, while Natalie Hubbard will keep an eye on proceedings as PC Pongo. The evil Abanazar is played by Bob Osborne so get ready to boo and hiss.

Aladdin himself is played by Callum Erskine who has starred in the Youth Community Theatre Project Productions of Wizard of Oz



and Fame. Ellie Fiore, 17, is Princess Jasmine.

Join Aladdin, Princess Jasmine and of course Wishee Washee and Widow Twankey as they take you

on a magic carpet ride for a spectacular pantomime.

Tickets start at £13 plus booking fee, from www.leascliffhall.org.uk or call 0844 847 1776.



JIM MULLEN AND HENRY LOWTHER

Thursday, January 20, Tower Theatre, Folkestone



JAZZ AT the Tower presents one of the great duos of British jazz, for a show not to be missed.

Jim Mullen is deemed to be one of the world's foremost jazz guitarists, he will team up with Henry Lowther to recreate their studio recordings.

Mullen began his musical career playing tea chest bass in a skiffle group and soon progressed to guitar.

He was a member of a group with future Average White Band members Malcom Duncan and Roger Ball for a time and in 1975 hooked up with Dick Morrissey, followed by a host of top American artists.

His playing partner during the 60s, Henry Lowther was one of the first musicians on the British jazz scene to experiment with total free improvisation, notably with Jack Bruce, Lyn Dobson and Jon Hiseman.

He played with the original, seminal Mike Westbrook band and even hit the rock scene in the 60s.

Lowther will play the flugelhorn as well as the trumpet and be backed by Alex Keen on double bass and Rod Brown on drums.

Entrance on the evening is £7, call 01303 277175 to book or for more information.

THANET ON FILM: RAMSGATE SPECIAL

Thursday, January 13, Granville Cinema, Ramsgate



A SPECIAL Ramsgate edition of the phenomenally popular Thanet On Film will get its first screening this week.

The film, which broke box office records when it was screened in Broadstairs last year, is giving Ramsgate the big screen treatment in response to public demand.

Producer Christine Tongue said: "Over the last 12 months, many people from Ramsgate have asked that us to show the film in the town. However, we waited until we had time to put together a special Ramsgate edition.

"The film now includes extra vintage footage from the 1920s, 50s and 70s, as well as more recent times. There are lots of nostalgic shots of the beach, the attractions and the summer crowds. Over all it gives a fascinating impression of how Ramsgate has changed since its holiday heyday."

A special feature of the film is an item on Ramsgate seafront and the old Pleasurama site, which has been derelict for a decade.

Christine said: "The film tells the long saga of big promises and prolonged dereliction which has bedevilled Ramsgate seafront for so many years now."

Booking is advisable on 01843 591750.



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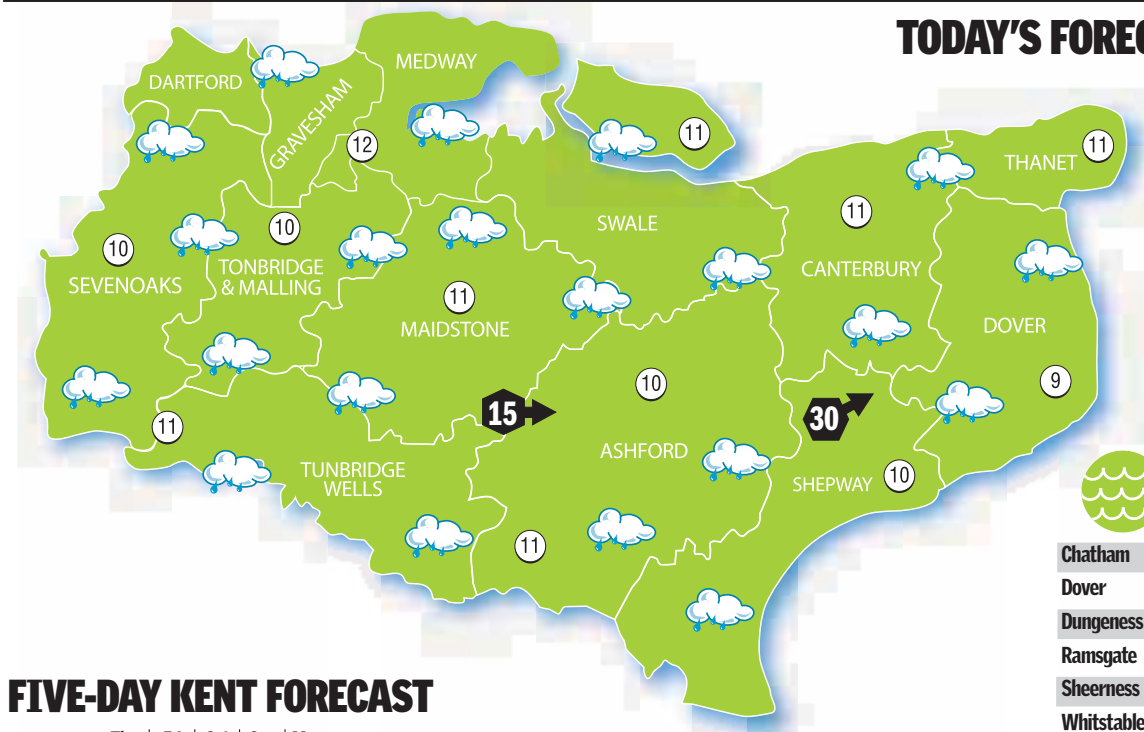
AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|------------|------|------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 3°C | Madrid | 8°C |
| Athens | 14°C | New York | 1°C |
| Barcelona | 14°C | Paris | 7°C |
| Beijing | -2°C | Rome | 15°C |
| Bombay | 31°C | Sydney | 25°C |
| Cape Town | 23°C | Tenerife | 21°C |
| Cardiff | 8°C | Tokyo | 5°C |
| Gibraltar | 15°C | Vancouver | 4°C |
| Hong Kong | 14°C | Warsaw | 2°C |
| Las Palmas | 21°C | Wellington | 18°C |



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 8:03am 4.7m | Sunday | 9:18am 4.8m |
| Dover | Saturday | 6:33am 5.3m | Sunday | 7:45am 5.4m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 6:47am 6.1m | Sunday | 7:53am 6.2m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 7:03am 4.0m | Sunday | 8:15am 4.1m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 7:51am 4.6m | Sunday | 9:06am 4.7m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 7:45am 4.4m | Sunday | 9:08am 4.5m |



FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----------|-----|------|------|------|------|---------------|-----|------|
| Ashford | 7°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C | 11°C | Dover | 6°C | 10°C | 10°C | 9°C | 9°C | Gravesend | 8°C | 12°C | 13°C | 12°C | 11°C | Sevenoaks | 6°C | 11°C |
| Canterbury | 7°C | 11°C | 11°C | 10°C | 10°C | Faversham | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Maidstone | 8°C | 12°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C | Sittingbourne | 8°C | 11°C |
| Chatham | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Folkestone | 6°C | 10°C | 10°C | 9°C | 9°C | Ramsgate | 7°C | 11°C | 11°C | 10°C | 10°C | Tonbridge | 7°C | 12°C |
| Dartford | 8°C | 12°C | 13°C | 12°C | 11°C | Gillingham | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Rochester | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Tun Wells | 7°C | 12°C |



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MOONRISE 10:34am MOONSET 12:20am

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yourmusic

Enjoy live music at the Grey Lady



TALENT: Paul Dunton invites a variety of local musicians to perform on his nights

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PAUL Dunton is a man who likes to make things happen, and he is proof that a bit of initiative can go a long way.

His efforts have been key in helping to establish a scene for quality music in Tunbridge Wells.

The Grey Lady Music Lounge in the Pantiles has been a venue for music for ten years now, since its reopening.

Paul is one of the artists who has helped it become a runaway success with his candlelit show-cases for those who have something to say with their music.

A musician himself, the story started when Paul found himself a regular on the bill.

He said: "The owner offered me a residency on a weekly basis as an artist, and I was really flattered and accepted. It was quite out of the blue for me and it started out on Wednesday nights, with me playing there once a week and carried on that way for a while.

"But after a while I decided to turn it into something else."

Five years ago the Paul Dunton and Guests nights began in earnest and the interest has grown, becoming a platform for solo artists and acoustic bands to play to appreciative audiences.

He said: "The idea was to invite others to get involved.

"I wasn't sure that me alone playing every week was enough to sustain an interest, and I knew that to keep it fresh it needed others to get involved.

"Pretty soon word really seemed to get around, to the point where it was growing organically. Then after about six months or so, CDs started to arrive in the

post for me to listen to. That's how the roster built up and now we have four acts that play each night and it has become a twice weekly thing."

He continued: "The standard of musicianship and songwriting ability is excellent, of a real high standard, and we offer that for just £5.

"It's worth coming along as I think it's a great night and people are supporting local artists.

"I haven't really encountered a lot of negativity towards the nights as yet, despite them going for five years and it's something I want to continue with for some time as it has had such a good reception. It has become an integral part of the local music scene and it really is packed out twice a week. If the appetite for it is there I see no reason to stop doing it and I hope people will continue to support it."

Before long the 32-year-old found himself at the centre of a small scene that was growing each week as more and more demos turned up for him.

More bands and acts then started to ask for audition sessions to try and get on the bill at the Grey Lady.

"It took me by surprise but it was a welcome surprise. The scene in Tunbridge Wells has a lot to offer, I've really discovered that and believe in what people here are doing."

Paul's own music is what he calls a cross between classical and pop and when he plays he performs with a violinist, cellist and other musicians.

He cites singer/songwriter Damian Rice as one influence and composer Samuel Barber as another and has been playing ten years now.



HIGH SPEED TO THE SLOPES: These days you can take a couple of days off work and be on the piste within hours of arriving at the airport

yourgetaways



It's easy to take a few days off work and hit the slopes

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

ONCE a luxurious adventure suitable only for James Bond, families with hyphenated surnames and tax dodgers, skiing has now become a great holiday choice for everyone.

But it's only in the last few years that new, innovative holiday companies have started toying with the limitations of the 70s-style week package and giving more choice to those who want to ski frequently, for short periods – and not much money.

You can now nip off for three days skiing, two nights sleep, at a relatively low price, in order to keep those ski legs fresh.

And having headed to the slopes with Skiweekender.com, I can confirm that during the course of one weekend, the turnover of guests at their lodge near the resort of La Clusaz, just an hour from Geneva, is dizzying.

"It is more work," admits Jess Shirley-Smith from the website, over a beer, at the end of a long day working at Les Aravis lodge.

"Our aim is to make sure not a minute of a guest's time is wasted."

Sure enough, we were on the slopes within two hours of arriving at Geneva airport and could immediately see the benefits of this kind of trip. Arriving mid-week for a short stay in March, the airport was quiet, and with our ski passes and



equipment organised in advance, we were propelled effortlessly on to the deserted slopes by the grinning, youthful Skiweekender staff.

Instead of being part of the weekend rush, we had the chance to ski like locals and found fighting the fatigue a little easier than normal with the help of blasting fresh air, exercise and a biere, s'il vous plait.

"Staffing this kind of lodge is expensive," says Jess, hours later, when we're back in the lodge and plonked beside the bar.

"Chalets tend to be run by couples, so it's a different business model, but we work it out so the costs aren't passed on to the customer. French hotels won't do it this way; that's one of the reasons we ended up buying this hotel ourselves."

Skiweekender.com offer a wide range of packages to suit the individual, rather than the needs of a tour operator:

"We make sure everything is on tap as soon as guests get here," says Jess. "The boots, lift passes, rides to the lifts – all those things which usually hold you up. And you also pay for these up front, rather than getting there and suddenly wondering where 300 euros went."

"For us, the internet and Easyjet are key," laughs Jess. "People like the idea they can take a day or two off work and they're down the slopes. We see people coming back again and again. One guy has been three times, and blames his skiing addiction on us. Apparently we make made it too easy."

MOTORS NEWS



Zero per cent on the new C4 from the off

CITROËN'S stylish new C4 went on sale this week, priced from £15,595 and with zero per cent finance deals offered straight away.

Available in five-door format only for now, the new car's compact external dimensions contrast with generous internal volumes and a class-leading 408-litre boot.

The French marque has also gone upmarket with the cabin and there are luxury options such as Denon hi-fi and massaging front seats.

Powertrain options include four low-emission diesel and three petrol engines – the latter developed with BMW.



New junior Audi wins top award for safety

AUDI'S new A1 supermini has earned the ultimate safety accolade – a maximum five-star Euro NCAP rating for frontal, rear or side collision, as well as for child safety and pedestrian protection.

It makes the A1 one of the safest small cars around and delivers further ammunition for its battle with fellow premium contender, the BMW Mini, and Fiat's retro star 500.

The most junior Audi is priced from £13,145 and the engine options are turbocharged 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol units, plus a 1.6-litre diesel.



Jazzed up Honda deals

HONDA'S British-built Jazz and Civic line-ups have gained from New Year customer savings and offers.

The Jazz (from £9,950) is now available with £1,000 off all models, while the Civic line-up now starts at £12,995 and with savings of up to £2,750.

Other incentives include three years' complimentary servicing on most Civics, tempting new finance deals and the return of Honda's popular 50/50 plan for the Jazz – customers pay half the cost of the car on collection and the balance a year later.



IMPRESSIVE: Peugeot says its RCZ coupé is not aimed at giving the likes of the Audi TT a run for their money, but a stunning drive, comfortable interior and host of extras give it a chance

Peugeot's audacious bid to lionize classy coupé

IF PROOF were needed of Peugeot's new ambition to climb the world's car rankings, look no further than the stunning RCZ coupé.

The Audi TT is the most obvious target for the audacious Peugeot, except that the TT (from £26,475) is more expensive and more minimally equipped than the RCZ (from £20,450).

The upmarket RCZ GT HDi 163 (£25,550) model tested was laden with standard 'extras' such as powered and heated front seats, leather upholstery, parking aids and stunning alloys, and turned heads wherever it was seen.

You even get folding rear seats, allowing the rear of the cabin to be crammed far more than you would expect with that curvaceous roof.

And it steers and handles as crisply as it looks, aided by a tidy six-speed manual change. Sports car purists might moan that it's not rear-wheel drive, but that would have hiked the cost.

And it feels light yet well planted, particularly with the test car's smooth 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine.

There is no penalty to pay for the car's ability

ROAD TEST PEUGEOT RCZ

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Green rating | ★★★★★ |

to tame a fast and winding route either; the ride quality is stunning for such a capable sports car and I could imagine driving a huge distance in the RCZ without feeling jaded at the other end.

The cabin is not a bad place to be either. Peugeot has made big strides here lately, opening up a lead over sister brand Citroën and arch-rival Renault.

There is also decent storage space and while the RCZ can never pretend to be more than a 2+2, it's a decent one.

Admittedly, grown-ups will struggle for headroom beneath the distinctive double-bubble rear roof; everyone said this would never be ported over from the original RCZ concept, but it has proved to be a practical way of using air flow to keep the rear screen clear of rain and crud.

The RCZ is also environmentally-friendly for a 'press on' motor; our RCZ diesel pushes out just 139g/km of CO₂ and falls into road tax band-E (£110/year) and should average more than 50mpg – pretty impressive for a fun car.

Will there be a roadster to attack the TT on both fronts? Peugeot has said 'Non!', but the demand is out there.



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| 09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 -) 18164 MILES | £11999 | £10499 | £1500 |
| 08 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DR 0 MILES | £13999 | £13299 | £700 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES | £8999 | £7999 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES | £8799 | £7799 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2008 -) 14960 MILES | £7999 | £6999 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES | £8799 | £7799 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI ZETEC S 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18440 MILES | £16999 | £15599 | £1400 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
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| 07 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES | £7799 | £6999 | £800 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 17012 MILES | £7999 | £6999 | £1000 |
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PROPERTY NEWS

Minister says we've seen end of the housing boom

BRITAIN'S property boom could be over for good, according to the housing minister in the Coalition Government.

Grant Shapps said homeowners should no longer rely on their houses to fund their retirement.

He said ministers were hoping to engineer an era of "house price stability" in which property values would gradually be eroded by rising earnings.

He suggested that in a 'rational' market, house prices might rise by two per cent while earnings rose by four per cent, making property more affordable over time.

The Government is trying to encourage councils and developers to build more homes to suppress the market and make it easier for first-time buyers to get on to the housing ladder.

Mr Shapps, a Conservative, said a fall in the real value of houses would ease the "horrendous" situation faced by millions of young people.

He said property should "primarily be thought of as a place to be your home" rather than as an investment.

"The main thing everyone requires for their subsistence is a roof over their head and when that basic human need becomes too expensive for average citizens to afford, something is out of kilter," he continued. "I think the answer is house-price stability."

Give careful thought to your buy-to-let choice

INVESTORS may wish to consider the location and nature of a property more carefully when taking out a buy-to-let policy, say experts.

Analysts say buy-to-let is one of the top 20 ways to profit from the current dip in the housing market, but urges people to be cautious about where and what they are buying.

According to a survey most city centres have an abundance of flats, so the best returns come from letting three and four-bedroom houses to families.

According to the findings some letting agents have experienced rises of 20 per cent in 2010, but they do not expect a great deal of capital appreciation until at least 2012.

Buy-to-let landlords may also wish to consider empty properties as potential investment.

David Ireland – chief executive of charity Empty Homes – said it is easier and cheaper to convert such dwellings than to construct new ones.



Slight price rise is not yet a sign of market recovery

■ BY NICK AMES

THE latest house price index from the Nationwide Building Society has revealed a 0.4 per cent rise for the month of December compared with November.

The latest rise means house prices are now just 0.4 per cent higher than this time last year, with the average UK home costing £162,763.

Nationwide's chief economist Martin Gahbauer, said: "Despite December's increase, house prices have fallen in four out of the last six months and it would be premature to suggest the recent downward trend has been broken on the basis of one month's figures."

House prices came under pressure this year as a high level of instructions outstripped buyer demand.

The prediction for house prices in 2011 is for a slight fall as demand for housing is expected to stay weak as a result of the uncertainty surrounding the economy and the Government's massive spending cuts.

Some experts are predicting falls of around five per cent in 2011, while many have suggested they could fall by as much as 10 per cent.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders is predicting that the housing market will remain subdued in 2011, due to uncertainty surrounding the economy and the ongoing mortgage rationing by lenders – but is optimistic that stamp duty legislation could assist those wanting to buy for the first time.

But it says lenders must be more flexible when deciding whether to assist them onto the housing ladder.

Over recent times, demand has been weak as many buyers have adopted a "wait and see" approach as uncertainty continues to surround the economy and the Government's spending cuts make prospective buyers cautious. However, the CML is hopeful that the £250,000 stamp duty exemption for first-time buyers may provide a modest boost to sales next year – particularly as the December 2011 deadline looms.

Despite this, the fact remains that first-time buyers continue to struggle to get onto the



FLUCTUATIONS: Despite a slight rise in house prices last month most predictions are for house prices to fall

property ladder as lenders are still demanding large deposits.

With regard to house prices, the CML expects them to fall modestly or stay flat next year as the availability of mortgages continues to "remain limited". The body does not expect lending levels experienced during the housing boom to return for many years.

Mortgage approvals are currently hovering around the 47,000 a month mark – this is less

than half the level reached at the height of the housing boom in 2007.

In the meantime, the CML predicts a modest rise in mortgage arrears and repossessions.

The spokesman explained this would be to reflect "the continuing pressure on household finances, the persistence of cases of long-term arrears and the government's decision to cut help for borrowers by cutting payments of support for mortgage interest."

Now's the time for first timers to get a mortgage

MORTGAGE affordability in the UK for those looking to take their first steps onto the property ladder is at its most favourable for 12 years, according to the latest annual Halifax First Time Buyer Review.

Monthly mortgage costs as a proportion of income are now below the long term average

and 40 per cent of local authorities are affordable for first time buyers, a sevenfold increase on 2007, the report shows.

The proportion of disposable earnings devoted to mortgage payments by a potential new first time buyer stood at 27 per cent in the autumn of 2010, the lowest since December

1998 and almost half of the peak level of 50 per cent in September 2007.

This significant improvement in affordability over the past three years has been mainly driven by a combination of lower house prices and declining mortgage rates, the lender said.

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Senior & General Appointments 26-28

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For an application pack please call 01843 282956, see our website www.theatroyalmargate.com or email: admin@theatroyalmargate.com

Deadline for applications – Fri 4th Feb, 12pm

Interviews – w/b 7th Feb 2011

Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

WEEKEND DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

required

to work in a residential home in Faversham for the elderly. 9 – 2 pm.

For further details please call

01795 532629 between 10 – 4 pm

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For more information contact Sally Brooks

Tel: 01795 886220 or email: ellenscourt@btconnect.com



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Providing employment advice and guidance you will lead on policies and procedures ensuring that best HR practice is in place.

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Liz Justice - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com



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*For those roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

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We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

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20 hours per week on a rota basis. Salary: £6.70 per hour

You will be expected to provide service and provision of all meals to residents, take charge of catering services in absence of Head Chef, working with other disciplines within the home. Candidates will have NVQ in Cooking and Basic Food Preparation plus Food Hygiene certificate.

If you would like to apply for this role please visit our website www.britishlegion.org.uk to download an application form to complete and email to mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk or collect an application form from Maurice House and post or deliver to Maurice House no later than 30th January 2011.

Please note that CVs are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of Recruitment Agencies to help us with this vacancy.

Please note: We comply with current government legislation relating to the Default Retirement age (DRA) of 65 years and all Royal British Legion employees are retired upon reaching their 65th birthday.

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CLOSING DATE: 12pm noon on Friday 21 January 2011

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Picture: ADY KERRY

**IN FORM:** Canterbury are well placed to make the semi-finals

City men and women target indoor finals

QUALIFICATION for the super sixes National Indoor Hockey Finals is top of the agenda for both Canterbury's men and ladies this weekend.

The final batch of group games are held across Saturday and Sunday, with both Canterbury's teams in contention to make it to the climax at Wembley Arena later this month.

Nick Clark's ladies side went into the first weekend of games last month with a lack of indoor training under their belts, but it barely showed as they won all four of their opening games.

HOCKEY

Resuming on top of the Women's Premier Division on goal difference, Canterbury are well placed to make the semi-finals, but will not be taking progression for granted in Worcester.

After playing the weaker sides last month they now face far stiffer opposition in the form of Reading, Slough, Bowdon Hightown and Leicester.

The minimum aim will be to finish on Sunday in the top four. Unlike the men's

competition, where the semi-finals are played at Wembley, Canterbury ladies must win their last-four tie to qualify for the finals day.

Kwan Browne's men's team had a more mixed opening to their campaign, but are still in the mix to claim a top four spot in Bristol. A win and two draws from their first four games means only goal difference is keeping them out of the qualification places.

Their second round of games includes a clash with East Grinstead, who had a 100 per cent record last month.

RUGBY

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

**COLLECTION:** Club to pay respects to Joseva Vatubua

Club to pay tribute to Afghanistan hero

A **COLLECTION** will be held at Canterbury's home game against Old Albanians on Saturday for the family of a player killed on active service in Afghanistan earlier this month.

Joseva Vatubua, 24, was killed by an explosion in Helmand Province on New Year's Day while serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Scots.

One of several Fijians to join Canterbury when his regiment was first based at the city's Howe Barracks in 2008, Vatubua was a regular in the club's development side and he also played in the British Army sevens team.

David Haigh, Canterbury press officer, said: "He was one of a group of Fijian boys from the regiment, they were all keen players, but he was the best."

"He went to Afghanistan at the beginning of September so he had not played this season, but was a quality player and he was a regular last season. Joe was certainly a first-team player had the opportunities been there."

The club will use this weekend's game at Merton Lane to pay tribute to Vatubua, raising money for his family and service charities. Kick-off is at 2pm.

On the pitch Canterbury began the year with a 31-15 defeat at title contenders Jersey. The Channel Islanders have a fearsome home record, but only a misplaced pass from Carlton Littlechild prevented Jake Chapman from giving the city club an early lead.

The hosts quickly hit their stride and three tries put them in charge, with Matt Pinnick's score the only reply.

Jersey went on to win comfortably, although Canterbury's industry was rewarded with a last-minute interception try from Mike Melford.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

**INS AND OUTS:** (L-R) South African paceman Wayne Parnell looks unlikely to return to Kent for a second stint next season, while Darren Stevens was the first to sign a new contract this winter

Picture: ADY KERRY

Quiet winter is music to the ears of Kent's head coach

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT head coach Paul Farbrace believes his side will start the summer with a spring in their step, after managing to keep the whole squad together over the winter.

Rumours circulated at the end of last season that the whole squad were up for sale and several senior players voiced their concern about the club's precarious financial situation.

It all came in the wake on Amjad Khan's exit, in which Kent were unable to make the player any offer to stay at the club, but the fast bowler is the only member of the squad to have exited St Lawrence.

Darren Stevens signed a new contract in the winter, while the likes of James Tredwell and Martin van Jaarsveld have another two years left to run on their deals. The club are also close to making an announcement that two other key

members of their side have signed long-term deals and Farbrace is pleased the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes is beginning to bear fruit.

"At the end of the season there was concern we were going to be down to 14/15 players, but we have 20 players on our staff this year," he said. "Yes, some are young ones, but 20 is a good number and that means they all have a genuine chance of playing first-class cricket."

"All of our senior players; and there was lots of talk about various players leaving and going to other counties, are now all staying and that means we have the nucleus of a very good side, which gives us a boost."

"If some of our young guys who we've offered contracts put pen to paper in the next few weeks, it could be very encouraging."

Stevens, Simon Cook and Joe Denly will all be available at the start of the season after the trio missed out on being selected at this year's Indian Premier League auction.

All three had put their names forward for inclusion, but they, like England stars James Anderson and Graeme Swann, were not picked by the Indian franchises. Selection would have meant the Kent players would have missed the beginning of the county season.

It also appears Kent have missed out on Wayne Parnell as their overseas player, as it looks as though the South African will be signing for another county in the next few weeks.

Farbrace also confirmed the county will be giving Neil Saker, the former Surrey and Unicorns seam bowler, a trial in pre-season.

Oystermen to announce new boss by next week

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Whitstable Town 0

Dulwich Hamlet 1

Gradwell 90

EXPERIENCE will be top of Whitstable Town's wish-list when they hold interviews this week for the vacant manager's job.

The Oystermen's board met on Monday to discuss the 15 candidates who had applied for the post, made available by Mark Lane's sacking due to poor results last month.

They intend to draw up a shortlist and speak to four or five applicants in the next few days ahead of an official announcement next week.

After experimenting at promoting from within with Lane and his predecessor Mark Munday, who were both taking their first steps in management, the club want to change tack.

Joe Brownnett, Whitstable chairman, said: "We have got candidates who have been in football a long time and we won't know what their aspirations for the club are until we talk to them – whether it's to rebuild the team or make smaller changes.

"We just want to talk to a few people who



CLEARANCE: Dulwich's goalkeeper punches the ball away during Saturday's game

have more experience. I think as a club we have tried the other way [with Lane and Munday], we wanted to get people we knew and had a lot of time for, but unfortunately things haven't worked out so well. Perhaps it's time to try another track."

The change in policy would appear to rule

out Steve Nolan, who has been in charge for the last three games, but despite having a strong coaching background, he has not been a manager.

It may not necessarily mean the end of his stay though, the possibility remains he could be reunited with Peter Nott, who has applied, in a repeat of their set-up at Maidstone United.

Saturday's last-gasp defeat to Dulwich Hamlet came after Nolan took four points from his first two games and Brownnett has been pleased with the players' response since Lane's exit.

He said: "I think Steve's done very well for us. It was just a shame we didn't get a win on Saturday and I felt for the boys, they couldn't be giving us any more at the moment."

A heavy Belmont pitch did not lend itself to fluent, passing football and the first-half saw a scrappy contest in which the visitors created the lion's share of chances. A combination of errant finishing and interventions by Whitstable goalkeeper Kevin Fewell kept the game scoreless at the break.

The hosts emerged rejuvenated for the second-half and both Lloyd Blackman and Ian Pulman wasted gilt-edged chances which ultimately proved very costly.

It looked as though despite their profligacy the Oystermen's unbeaten run would be extended to four games, but Dulwich struck in stoppage time. A cross was met by Steven Lloyd, whose attempted clearance fell straight for Rob Gradwell to slam home.

Whitstable remain two points from safety ahead of Saturday's trip to Godalming Town.

FOOTBALL



DOUBLE: Stuart King scored late goals to clinch win

King jewel in club's crown, says Halsey

Deal Town 0 Herne Bay 2

AFTER his late brace gave Herne Bay a valuable win at Deal Town, Stuart King has been urged by manager Simon Halsey to go on and win the Kent League's golden boot.

The striker hit two goals in the final quarter of an hour to give the visitors maximum points, which, with their rivals not in league action, took Bay seven points clear at the top of the table.

King, who was the subject of an approach from Folkestone Invicta earlier this season, has amassed 16 goals so far during this campaign. His 14 in the league make him the division's top scorer, just ahead of Hythe's Brendon Cass.

Halsey is well aware of his top scorer's desire to play above Kent League level, but believes King could get his wish without having to leave the club if he maintains his current form.

He said: "By his own admission Stuart didn't have the best all-round game, but still came up with two goals. As much as Folkestone wanted him and I would've done anything to aid that move for his benefit, he's a massive part of what we want to do."

"He's got 16 goals already and has missed a chunk of the season. It's time to get his head down and win the golden boot for himself. If he does that he's helping us to win the league. Stuart wants to play at a higher level, but hopefully we can all do that together."

Although the opening goal did not arrive until the 75th-minute, when King was set up by Luke Harvey, Bay were good value for the points after controlling the game for long spells. Victory was sealed eight minutes later when King tapped home after his penalty was parried by Deal goalkeeper Brad Ashmore.

Bay host Norton Sports in the League Cup quarter-final first leg tonight, kick-off is at 7.45pm.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

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| 3 Leatherhead | 21 | 13 | 4 | 4 | +33 | 43 |
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| 10 Chipstead | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | -1 | 30 |
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| 16 Dulwich Hamlet | 19 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 24 |
| 17 Fleet Town | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | -7 | 24 |
| 18 Chatham Town | 21 | 6 | 4 | 11 | -13 | 22 |
| 19 Whyteleafe | 20 | 5 | 3 | 12 | -16 | 18 |
| 20 Corinthian-Casuals | 22 | 5 | 3 | 14 | -19 | 18 |
| 21 Whitstable Town | 22 | 3 | 7 | 12 | -16 | 16 |
| 22 Horsham YMCA | 22 | 3 | 2 | 17 | -55 | 11 |

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| 6 Greenwich Borough | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | +17 | 21 |
| 7 Norton Sports | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | +1 | 18 |
| 8 Sevenoaks Town | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | -3 | 16 |
| 9 Deal Town | 14 | 5 | 1 | 8 | -10 | 16 |
| 10 Tunbridge Wells | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | +8 | 15 |
| 11 Fisher | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | -14 | 14 |
| 12 Erith & Belvedere | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | -1 | 13 |
| 13 Holmesdale | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | -9 | 12 |
| 14 Lordswood | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | -9 | 11 |
| 15 Corinthian | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | -9 | 11 |
| 16 Sporting Bengal United | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | -25 | 10 |

KENT COUNTY LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|----|
| 1 Hollands & Blair | 14 | 11 | 3 | 0 | +29 | 36 |
| 2 Gray Valley (PM) | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | +18 | 30 |
| 3 Briden Ropes | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | +11 | 30 |
| 4 Canterbury City | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | +6 | 25 |
| 5 Phoenix Sports | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | +3 | 25 |
| 6 Lewisham Borough (Com) | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | +4 | 19 |
| 7 Rusthall | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | +2 | 18 |
| 8 Stansfield O&B Club | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | -2 | 17 |
| 9 Bly Spartans | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | +2 | 16 |
| 10 Snodland | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5 | -11 | 15 |
| 11 Bearsted | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5 | -14 | 15 |
| 12 Charlton Ath. Community | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | -4 | 14 |
| 13 Sutton Athletic | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | -5 | 14 |
| 14 Woodstock Park | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | -13 | 14 |
| 15 Fleet Leisure | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5 | -5 | 12 |
| 16 Tonbridge Invicta | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | -21 | 5 |

FIXTURES (Saturday):

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Godalming Town v Whitstable Town
KENT SENIOR TROPHY SECOND ROUND: Beckenham Town v Herne Bay
KENT COUNTY LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Charlton Athletic Community v Canterbury City (2pm)

Bay rollers back with a bang after the big freeze

ROLLER HOCKEY

Manchester 7 Herne Bay United Kings 13

SIMON Hosking scored six goals as Herne Bay United Kings returned from their long hibernation with an emphatic victory at Manchester.

Brendan Barker also added five as the defending roller hockey Premier Division champions sealed a comfortable victory.

The long trip north was the team's first competitive game since mid-November due to a succession of weather-related postponements.

They looked rusty in falling 2-0 behind early on, but a quick double from Barker levelled the scores. A penalty quickly put the home side back in front, before the visitors finally took control of the game.

Neat interplay between Barker and Hosking opened the hosts up to score. With United on top the fit-again player/manager Phil McVey came off the bench to score his first league goal of the campaign. Hosking added two more before the break to give them a 7-4 lead.

The trio all added further goals in the second-half to wrap up a straightforward victory.

With four teams contending for the league title in a much more competitive division, McVey was delighted to take maximum points and singled out one player for special praise.

He said: "I was very pleased with the team performance, but I was especially



ON TARGET: Simon Hosking scored six goals as Herne Bay United Kings returned to action

pleased with the performance of new signing Danny Butcher, he has a very bright future at the club and fitted in really well."

United's next game is on Saturday, January 22 at the Pier Pavilion when they Letchworth.

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Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler reveals the latest team news from Priestfield



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